

April 9, 1986

LB 600A

have never been one of those since that arbitrary rule was put in place who agreed with it. I fought it from the beginning and I already told you about the weakening amendment that I got adopted which was vetoed by then Governor Exon. We overrode it. They took it to court. The State Supreme Court upheld it as constitutional. The federal government did nothing and Senator Warner has told you himself that you will not be out of compliance by merely passing this bill. There were 30 something of you yesterday who said you supported it. Pressures have been brought to bear and some are falling off as always happens. That is why I didn't want to stop at 25. Senator Hoagland said that if you could talk to this fellow, Zwonechek, he would tell you how many lives would be saved or lost. Zwonechek, I heard his voice on the news this morning, said that any discussion of that issue would be totally speculative because he knows how these various safety groups have lumped together all fatalities including those involving pedestrians within city limits where the speed limit is not anywhere near 70 miles an hour. Bicyclists who were killed were lumped with traffic fatalities. As they break them out, they find conclusively that motor vehicular traffic is safest on the interstate, and I use the "est" on the end of that word meaning there is no roadway safer, and that is born out by statistics. When they put a 55 mile an hour speed limit, nobody or few people in this part of the country asked why. There are highly congested small northeastern states that have political power. They checked what the average rate that those people were able to drive under their congested conditions and that became the limit that was imposed on the whole country. Contrary to what people believe, there is no national speed limit in this country. There is no federal enforcement agency that will give you a ticket if you exceed 55 miles an hour. That is why each state must enact its own limit. All that Senator Exon's bill would do is allow states to enact a bill such as the one we are doing now. Fifty-five miles an hour is not the limit in this state because the federal government issued a decree.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: They said the states must do it, but if they don't, there came the threat. The federal government does not have the power to enact speed limits within the state because it is a matter of local or state concern, something that they have the right to control. The federal government has never presumed to set a speed limit within a state. You are not going to be out of compliance with the passage of this bill. There are some